



Dawley Urban District Council
Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1972

DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Miss. M. A. Smallwood.

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C O N T E N T S

1. INTRODUCTION
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To the Chairman and Councillors of Dawley Urban District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Council's Health Services for the year 1972.

Reference to the medical section shows the continued progress in development within the area. The population and number of inhabited dwellings show an appreciable increase. Good living accommodation and all the necessary supportive services are being provided. This necessitates careful planning and co-ordination between all the different authorities involved and community participation is also required in the planning and development.

The vital statistics show similar trends to those in previous years. Comment has been made in the report on the individual items and increasing demands are being made on the personal health services. This necessitates increasing facilities and staff and this is a County Council responsibility at present.

The environmental health services are the responsibility of the district and I am grateful to Mr. McFall for his report on the continued progress in providing these essential services. Such services as refuse collection and disposal do not attract publicity when they are functioning smoothly, but soon hit the headlines when any difficulty arises in providing the service. The increasing size of the problem and the requirements of a growing housing and industrial area can only be fully appreciated when dealing with the planning and day to day difficulties. Modern methods of collection and disposal are being incorporated and with the provision of an incinerator a solution to the disposal of refuse is within sight.

Housing Improvement continues and improvement grants have enabled older houses to be brought up to the required standard for satisfactory living accommodation. A House Improvement Exhibition was well attended and resulted in an increased number of enquiries and further progress.

Other essential services provided by the health department are described in the report and they have to be maintained to ensure the health of the community. All of these services continue to expand from year to year in step with the development within the area.

Reorganisation will take place on the 1st April, 1974, both of the District Local Authority and the National Health Service. The environmental health service will remain with the enlarged district and the personal health services will be transferred to the health service. This means that the Doctors and Nurses will be transferred, but a close liaison will be maintained, both at County and district level. It is essential to maintain a close contact to deal with problems of joint interest and responsibility. This is recognised and is being incorporated into the new structures.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee for their continued interest and support and also the staff for their unfailing loyalty throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILDE.
Medical Officer of Health

MEDICAL SECTION

STATISTICS

GENERAL

	<u>Mid 1972</u>	<u>Mid 1971</u>	<u>Mid 1970</u>
Area (in acres)	9,453	9,453	9,453
Estimated Population	29,210	26,460	25,920
Number of inhabited dwellings	9,530	8,409	8,328
Rateable Value of District	£1,051,696	£926,307	£815,038
Estimated Product of a 1p Rate	£ 11,617	£ 9,886	£ 3,399

POPULATION

The population shows an increase of 2,750. This includes the natural increase of 299.

The growth in population shows the movement into the area of largely young families, which causes a high birth rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Number	569	573	519

The number of births in the area is similar to that for 1971 and continues to be approximately twice the number of deaths.

Live Birth Rates

	<u>1972</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>Salop</u> <u>County</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>1971</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000) Population	18.7	15.4	14.8	19.7
Illegitimate live births (percent of total live births).	11.0	7.0	9.0	10.0

The live birth rate for 1971 continues at a high level as is to be expected with the development of a New Town.

The illegitimacy rate for the last six years has been:-

<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
11.0	10.0	8.0	10.0	7.7	10.8

The illegitimate birth rate continues at a higher level than the national average but shows little overall change since 1967.

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Number	11	5	10	8
<u>Still Birth Rate</u>				
	<u>1972</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>Salop</u> <u>County</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>1971</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births).	19	13	12	9

The Still Birth Rate has returned to the 1970 rate at 19. The exceptionally good figures for 1971 have not been held and fluctuations are to be expected.

Total Live and Still Births

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Number	569	573	529	508

DEATHS OF INFANTS

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Total under 1 year of age	12	7	5	10

Infant Mortality Rate

	<u>1972</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>Salop</u> <u>County</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>1971</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>
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<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u> (deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births).	21	16	17	12
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<u>Neonatal Mortality Rate</u> deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births).	18	12	12	9
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<u>Early Neonatal Mortality</u> <u>Rate</u> (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births).	16	10	10	9
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<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u> (Still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total births).	34	23	22	17
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Maternal Mortality (Including abortion)

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy during the year under review.

A rising trend in the total live and still births can be seen and this is due to a younger population group than the national average. Figures for England and Wales show a falling number of live births since 1964. The services required for young families and children are higher than in other parts of the country.

The perinatal mortality rate is again above the national average, as it was in 1970. The figures for 1971 were below the national average for the first time and represent a desirable aim, but appears to be no more than a fluctuation in the figures at present, and not a permanent improvement.

DEATHS ALL AGES

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Number	270	276	279	257	278

The number of deaths occurring each year shows little change when viewed over the five year period.

Death Rate All Ages

	<u>1972</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>Salop</u> <u>County</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>1971</u> <u>Dawley</u> <u>U.D.</u>
Death Rate (per 1,000 population).	11.4	11.8	12.1	11.8

The death rate for 1972 is lower than the National Average and the total deaths due to the separate classifications are as follows:-

		<u>Male</u>	<u>1972</u> <u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus	1	-	1
B19(3)	" " - Stomache	4	4	8
B19(4)	" " - Intestine	5	3	8
B19(6)	" " - Lung, Bronchus	16	2	18
B19(7)	" " - Breast	-	6	6
B19(8)	" " - Uterus	-	3	3
B19(9)	" " - Prostate	1	-	1
B19(10)	Leukaemia	-	1	1
B19(11)	Malignant Neoplasm- Other etc.,	3	4	7
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	-	1	1
B46(4)	Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	-	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Diseases	-	3	3
B27	Hypertensive Disease	5	4	9
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	35	14	49
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	10	5	15
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	21	22	43
B31	Influenza	-	2	2
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	11	6	17
B32	Pneumonia	9	9	18
B53(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	11	7	18
B33(2)	Asthma	-	2	2
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	3	5

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B34	Peptic Ulcer	3	-	3
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
B38	Nephritis and Nephroses	-	2	2
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	2	3
B42	Congenital Anomalies	2	-	2
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour Etc.,	6	-	6
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	3	-	3
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2	1	3
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2	6
BE48	All other Accidents	1	1	2
BE49	Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries	-	1	1
BE50	All other external Causes	-	-	-
TOTAL - all causes		158	112	270

Deaths from circulatory diseases are the same as those in 1971 being 136. This is the main cause of death, but occurs mainly in the older ages. 25 deaths in this group were under 65, 44 were aged 65-74, and 67 were 75 and over. Ischaemic heart disease accounted for 17 deaths under 65 and represents some deaths that could possibly have been avoided by, not smoking cigarettes, reducing in weight, and taking adequate exercise.

Deaths from cancer were down from 64 in 1971 to 53 in 1972. Cancer of the lung accounted for 18 deaths in 1972 compared with 10 in 1971 and 20 in 1970. There were 16 male to 2 female. 12 were under 65 and, of these 3 were aged 35 - 44.

Influenza deaths were down from 8 in 1971 to 2 in 1972, but pneumonia deaths were up from 10 in 1971 to 18 in 1972.

Motor vehicle accidental deaths were down from 12 in 1971 to 6 in 1972. There were 4 male to 2 female, the ages being, one male age 15-24, two males ages 25-34, 1 male aged 35-44 and two females aged 75 and over. It will be seen that the younger males are at risk and injury not leading to death is also a serious hazard and does not appear in these figures.

Deaths due to all other accidents are down from 9 in 1971 to 2 in 1972 and this is a gratifying reduction. One was aged 1 - 4 years, again in a male, and one aged 75 and over, in a female.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Scarlet Fever	72	53	29	23
Measles	74	87	243	613
Whooping Cough	2	192	55	4
Dysentery	16	32	5	34
T.B. Respiratory	4	10	5	3
Infective Jaundice	36	5	10	28
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	205	380	357	706

The incidence of scarlet fever rose during 1972 to 72 cases from 53 in 1971. This is associated with tonsillitis and there had been a steady rise in notifications each year until 1972. However, this appears to be levelling off in 1973. Immunisation is not available against scarlet fever and the epidemiological pattern needs careful observation to assess the balance between the virulence of the infecting organism and the resistance of the community.

Measles had a year of low incidence at 74 in 1972 and there has been an outbreak in 1973, which is now over. The number of cases has been reduced by immunisation and visits made to the homes showed that most of the children, who had suffered from measles, had not been immunised.

The number of cases of dysentery notified during 1972 at 16 were lower than those during 1971 at 32 and this represents a fairly satisfactory position. Good hygiene and personal care is required to control this disease in the community.

Notifications of respiratory tuberculosis are down from 10 in 1971 to 4 in 1972. The overall trend continues to show a steady reduction.

Infective jaundice cases rose from 5 in 1971 to 36 in 1972. The incidence was similarly raised in 1969 to 28 and appears to be falling again in 1973, as it did after 1969 to a low in 1971. There is no satisfactory means of preventing these outbreaks of infective jaundice in the community, at present.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

These services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 22 to 29.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Two modern purpose-built Clinics are situated in Dawley and Madeley. There is also a clinic in Ironbridge, which is a converted building. The Dawley and Madeley clinics are equipped for dental treatment. A new Clinic was provided at Sutton Hill, as part of the Community Centre at Stonedale, in 1968 and a similar one at Wnesley Green, Woodside, in 1969. Brookside clinic facilities were established in 1973.

Dawley Clinic, Doseley Road,

Child Health..	..	Tuesdays, all day. (Toddler Clinic on the first Tuesday afternoon in the month).
Child Guidance	..	Wednesdays all day and Thursday mornings.
Dental..	..	Tuesday Mornings, Wednesdays all day and Thursday mornings.
Immunization..	..	Tuesday afternoon, (except the first Tuesday in the month).
Audiology.	..	By arrangement.
Mothers Club..	..	Alternate Thursdays, 7.30.p.m. onwards.
Welfare Foods.	..	Tuesdays all day.
Probation Reporting Centre.		2nd and 4th Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays 4.0.p.m. to 7.0.p.m.
Registrars office.		Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.
Chiropody..	..	2nd and 4th Monday afternoons.
Speech Therapy.	..	Wednesday afternoons.

Ironbridge Clinic, Severn Bank House,

Child Health. First and Third Friday afternoons.
Chiropody First, Third and fourth Friday Mornings.
Immunization. Third Friday afternoons.
Probation Reporting.. Mondays 5.0.p.m. to 8.30.p.m.
Centre.
Welfare Foods. First and Third Friday Afternoons.
Registrars Office. .. Tuesdays 3.0.p.m. to 4.0.p.m. Thursdays 10.0.a.m.
to 11.30.a.m. and Fridays 2.0.p.m. to 3.30.p.m.

Madeley Clinic, Church Street,

Audiology.. .. By arrangement.
Cervical Cytology..Second Friday Afternoons.
Child Health... Wednesday Afternoons.
Chiropody.. .. Tuesday mornings and 1st & 3rd Friday mornings.
Dental... .. Wednesdays, Fridays and by appointment.
Immunization .. 2nd Wednesday mornings and 4th Wednesday Afternoons.
Orthopaedic. .. Friday (three monthly) mornings.
Speech Therapy. Wednesday mornings.
Welfare Foods.. Wednesday Afternoons.
Family Planning..1st and 3rd Thursdays 6.30.p.m. to 8.0.p.m. 2nd Tuesday
Afternoons by appointment and 4th Thursday Afternoons.
Mothercraft &.. 1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday afternoons and 2nd Tuesday
Relaxation afternoons.
Child Guidance. Alternate Wednesday mornings.
(in Annexe)

Sutton Hill Clinic, Community Centre, Stonedale,

Child Health .. Mondays, all day.
Immunization .. 1st and 3rd Monday Afternoons.
Welfare Foods. Monday Afternoons.
Chiropody.. .. Second Thursday Afternoons.
Speech Therapy. Wednesday and Thursday mornings.
Group Therapy.. Thursday Mornings.
Child Guidance. Tuesday Mornings.
Mothercraft & Relaxation.. Tuesday Afternoons.

Woodside Clinic, Wensley Green, Woodside

Child Health .. Fridays all day.
Immunization .. First, Second , Third and Fourth Friday Afternoons.
Welfare Foods.. Fridays all day.
Child Guidance. Monday afternoons and Tuesday all day.
Speech Therapy. Wednesday Afternoons.

Hospital Services

The hospital and specialist services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and its hospital management committee.

The district lies between large general hospitals at Wolverhampton, under the Wolverhampton Hospital Management Committee and Shrewsbury under Shrewsbury Group Hospital Management Committee, and is well served by them.

Copthorne Hospital has an isolation ward and this is where cases of infectious disease are admitted.

Consultants from both hospital management committees hold out-patient sessions at Broseley, Much Wenlock, Shifnal, Wrekin Hospitals and also at Bridgnorth.

Ambulance Service

This is provided by the County Council. Operational Control of the service is maintained throughout the 24 hours from Headquarters, Central Ambulance Station, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Telephone number SHREWSBURY 56331.

The ambulance station at Tweedale was opened on the 21st May, 1972, and the station at Much Wenlock closed 31st May, 1972, followed by the Shifnal Station on 11th August, 1972. The Stations at Bridgnorth, Donnington, and Shrewsbury continue to support the Tweedale Station.

Vaccination and Immunization

This is carried out by both the County Council Medical Officers and General Practitioners. It is offered to pre-school children and school children against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles and poliomyelitis, and to girls age 11 - 14 against Rubella. Vaccination against tuberculosis is also offered to school children age 13 years and this is carried out as a routine in secondary schools with parents consent.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

(a) Several articles of nursing equipment, such as air rings, bed pans, feeding cups, etc., are on loan to patients being nursed at home. These can be obtained from the County Council via the district nurses or nursing officer, BRIDGNORTH 3357.

(b) Treatment of tuberculosis is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at chest clinics and sanatoria, but the prevention and the aftercare are shared between the Local Authority and Hospital Board. Health visitors follow up cases and do most of the contact tracing. Open air shelters can be provided by the County when required. Extra nourishment may be provided. The Local Authority and Regional Board combine in arranging amenities for Chest Xray.

In Dawley Urban District there are five Health Visitors, Four Nurse-Midwives and one part-time District Nurse. The midwives undertake both midwifery and district nursing duties.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

1. Water Supplies.
2. Sewage Disposal.
3. Refuse Collection.
4. Refuse Disposal.
5. Pest Control.
6. Housing and Slum Clearance.
7. Moveable Dwellings.
8. Clean Air Acts, 1956 and 1968.
9. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
10. Poultry Processing Premises.
11. The Offices, Shops and Railway
Premises Act, 1963.
12. Shops Act, 1950.
13. Factories and Workshops.

Contributed by the Chief Public Health Inspector
J. L. McFall, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.

1. WATER SUPPLIES

The main piped supplies are under the control of the East Shropshire Water Board and are satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological Samples

	<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Main Supplies	27	26	1
Private Supplies	1	-	1

The samples reported to be unsatisfactory were only slightly below the standard accepted as satisfactory.

<u>Water Supply to Dwellings</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Dwellings in District	9,525	10,107
Supplied from public mains	9,339	10,010
Supplied from Private Mains	3	3
Supplied by Public Standpipes	37	21
Supplied by Standpipe on premises	146	73

The demolition of unfit properties over the years has resulted in a gradual reduction in the number of dwellings without internal water supply as shown by the following table.

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Dwellings without internal Supply	278	239	146	73
Supplied by Public Standpipe	77	51	37	21

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The gradual demolition or improvement of unfit housing has resulted in a further reduction in the number of pail closets in use from 384 to 176 in 1971 and to 134 in 1972. Some of these dwellings are in the Ironbridge Area where the absence of outfall works to the very old sewerage system prevents the conversion to water closets.

Pail closets are emptied weekly where these exist and a useful service is provided for site contractors in the New Town where site sanitary conveniences are provided.

The present sewerage system in the Ironbridge Gorge Area, with discharge directly into the river Severn from numerous outlets along its banks continues to be a black spot and is part of the history of the area no one wants to preserve. A new sewerage system and outfall works for the area is part of the Council's Capital programme for the immediate future.

There are 522 Septic Tanks in the district which require emptying periodically which serve houses which have been developed sporadically in past years. A free service is provided to householders on request.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION

(a) Expansion of the Service

Careful planning is necessary to enable adequate provision to be made in estimates as each year sees the expansion of this essential service. Close liaison with the Telford Development Corporation at the planning stage of new development has enabled future requirements to be anticipated.

The system of refuse collection planned for the New Town Centre, to be opened in the Autumn of 1973, is thought to be in keeping with the modern concept of the exciting project. The use of a compactor station at basement level should ensure that all waste is kept out of sight and removed unobtrusively from the centre.

Long term planning for future developments in the Dawley Urban District over the next few years has received attention and such forethought is essential if a satisfactory service is to be provided.

(b) Refuse Collection on "Radburn" type Estates

The use of electric, pedestrian controlled electric trucks collecting refuse to central depots on the new estates has proved to be both economical and satisfactory in use. Four such electric trucks were in use at the year end collecting to four depots planned as part of the housing estates they serve. The system is quiet in operation and as all refuse is removed from the depots daily no problems of hygiene are experienced. The Depots are also used to store the supply of paper sacks for each estate.

(c) Extension of the Paper Sack Collection System

The Council's plan is to extend this system, which is used for all the new housing estates, to the remainder of the Urban District. At the year end about half the District had been converted to this system of collection which appeared to be welcomed by all the house-holders.

(d) Trade Refuse

It has been difficult to anticipate twelve months ahead the increases in trade refuse for the following year as new factories appear at short notice with varying outputs of trade refuse.

The provision of the $1\frac{1}{4}$ cu.yd. refuse containers for trade premises in 1970 has provided a service which has been appreciated and which has expanded gradually as the following figures indicate.

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Containers in use at year end	39	78	110

Similarly the income from trade refuse charges has increased.

1968/69	£896	1970/71	£1017
1969/70	£987	1971/72	£1716
	1972/73	£1961	

The charges made are slightly less than cost. The Council is not required to recover all the cost but only to make a reasonable charge for its service.

(e) Bulk Refuse

The aim of the Council is to provide a comprehensive refuse collection service and a weekly collection of bulky household rubbish is provided with the hope that indiscriminate dumping will be avoided. On the new housing estates in particular, the service has been much appreciated.

549 requests for the service were received in 1971 and 540 in 1972, which indicates the need for this service.

(f) Civic Amenities Act

Eighteen derelict cars were removed by the Public Health Department during the year. Action was taken in respect of a further 31 vehicles during this period but the vehicles were removed by the owners before the expiration of the Statutory Notice.

4. REFUSE DISPOSAL

(a) The only refuse tip used by the Council is situated in a disused quarry in private ownership. Since 1964, when the tip was first in use, no charge was made for use of the tip but with a change of policy by the firm concerned the Agreement had to be re-drafted and a tipping charge of £2,000 per annum agreed to plus £25 a week pumping charges to prevent the water level rising in the quarry. As the Council had no alternative tipping site the terms had to be accepted.

Three other possible reserve tipping sites were investigated but no progress was made.

(b) Refuse Incinerator

After investigating future refuse disposal problems for Telford New Town, the Joint Committee, representing four local authorities, after investigating various alternatives and carefully assessing the situation now and in the future, reached a final conclusion that incineration was essential in order to cope with the future volume of refuse. Many false trails were followed in the search for less expensive means of refuse treatment and disposal but at least all concerned were convinced that refuse incineration was the right answer.

5. PEST CONTROL

(a) Rodent Control

The provision of a second rodent operator during the year ensured that the increasing demands on the service could be met. The twice yearly test baiting of sewers and treatment of sewer infestations is an environmental health precaution which continues year after year and has increased as the sewerage system in the New Town has expanded.

The following statistics give some indication of the work carried out to remove infestation of rats and mice.

	Non <u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Total number of property inspected following notification.	272	28
Number infested by		
RATS	182	28
MICE	90	24
Total number of property infestations for reasons other than notification.	228	19
Number infested by		
RATS	192	13
MICE	36	6

(b) Miscellaneous Pests

The rodent operators deal with infestations of miscellaneous household pests in addition to dealing with infestations of rats and mice. With some types of infestations, particularly in the case of bugs and fleas, one of the Public Health Inspectors directly supervises the work as one often has to deal with distressed and worried householders and often the health and comfort of a whole family is at risk.

Infestations treated during the year:-

Cockroaches	4	Fleas	23
Ants	63	Flies	12
Wasps	10	Bees	8
Bugs	6		

6. HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE

(a) Number of inhabited dwellings:-

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Shop/Living</u>	<u>Public Houses</u>	<u>Hotels</u>
10,107	90	65	2
Number of Council owned houses			3,103
Number of Corporation owned houses			3,528
Number of Council houses completed during 1.1.72. to 31.12.72.			74

(b) Improvement Grants

Number of Discretionary Grants approved during the period 1.1.72. to 31.12.72.	48
Number of Standard Grants approved during the period 1.1.72. to 31.12.72.	10

A House Improvement Exhibition, organised by the Public Health Department was held from 10th to 15th April in the Town Hall and was well attended. Many enquiries were received concerning Grants, and these were followed up by the House Improvement Officer after the exhibition.

The interest in Improvement Grants continues to grow and with the increase in building costs the improvement of a sound but sub-standard dwelling with assistance from a Grant is an attractive proposition. This has resulted in the price of property, suitable for improvement, increasing accordingly.

(c) Slum Clearance

Unfit Houses Demolished	86
Unfit Houses Closed	13

Action was taken during the year to make Closing or Demolition Orders under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, where families were rehoused by the Council from unfit houses. A programme to clear or improve the remainder of the unfit property over a period of five years is in progress and at the same time the Housing Department has a programme in progress for the improvement of the earlier types of Council Houses in need of modernisation.

7. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

(a) At the end of 1972 there were 21 caravans on licensed sites in the Urban District.

Most of the site licences issued are for individual caravans, usually on sites adjacent to dwellings. There is one site in Coalbrookdale which is licensed for 12 caravans.

The siting of caravans within the Urban District is not encouraged but where there is urgent personal need this factor is taken into consideration.

(b) The Problem of Itinerant Caravan Dwellers

The housing of an itinerant caravan family in a dwelling in a residential area resulted in numerous complaints being received regarding their anti-social behaviour. Complaints which were quite justified.

Every official concerned with such families went out of their way to give this family, with their children, a new start in life. The house was furnished and was in reasonable condition but in a few months only a single bed was left of the furniture provided and the family left without notice.

If these people expect sympathetic consideration in return the public have a right to expect a reasonable standard of social behaviour.

(c) Sites for Itinerant Caravan Dwellers

In spite of time spent visiting possible sites, none have yet been provided in the County and more particularly in the Telford Area.

A suitable site in the Madeley Area was suggested to the Planning Authority but this did not meet with approval.

8. CLEAN AIR ACTS

(a) Domestic

No progress has been made with the establishment of smoke control areas but the installation of central heating in houses and the fitting of other modern heating appliances has tended to reduce any pollution of the atmosphere.

The new estates being developed by the Telford Development Corporation have gas or electric central heating and so do not add any pollution to the atmosphere.

(b) Commercial

Applications for approval of furnaces of various kinds under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, and for Chimney Heights under Section 6 of the Clean Air Act, 1968, are received by the department for consideration. No particular difficulties have been experienced when considering these applications except in the case of one factory with multiple small furnaces and paint drying ovens.

It is important that every effort should be made to keep the atmospheric pollution to a minimum and the provisions of the Clean Air Acts, if properly administered, assist in this direction.

(c) Prosecution

The owner of a motor car scrap yard in Ironbridge was successfully prosecuted during the year for causing heavy smoke emission from burning a scrap car. The action was taken after a number of warnings had been given.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Meat Inspection

The one slaughterhouse in the district ceased to be licensed in October, 1972, and during the year, up to that time, no slaughtering of animals was carried out.

(b) Inspection of Other Foods

A number of complaints were received during the year regarding unsound food and food containing foreign matter. The complaints regarding foreign matter in food were referred to the County Health Department who are responsible for dealing with that part of the Food & Drugs Act covering the sale of food not of the nature or substance demanded.

During the year the following miscellaneous foods were condemned:-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Lbs</u>
Canned Meats			88½
Other Canned Foods		15	44
Frozen Foods		10	37
Miscellaneous Foods	1	-	63
TOTAL	2	7	81½

(c) Prosecution

Two prosecutions were taken in respect of the sale of unsound food. One case was in respect of unsound boiled ham sold to a **child** and the other in respect of a tin of unsound food damaged by a case opening knife.

Other complaints of unsound food referred to the department were either not justified or the evidence was insufficient to support a prosecution.

(d) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Routine inspections continued to be made during the year to ensure that these regulations are observed. The following visits were made during 1972:-

419 visits were made to food premises.

18 letters were sent relating to improvement of premises or standards of hygiene.

<u>Class of premises inspected</u>	<u>Number</u>
Butchers	11
Grocers	67
Greengrocers	7
Fish Shops	1
Fried Fish Shops	6
Bread & Confectionery	10
Restaurants and Cafes	5
Hotels and Public Houses	66
Canteens and School Kitchens	29
Manufacturing Premises	3
Sweets	8
Mobile Food Traders	12

10. POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are no such premises in the District.

11. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(a) The public health inspectors are responsible for enforcing the provisions of this Act and associated regulations which deal with the following matters:-

Notification of Employment
 Cleanliness
 Overcrowding
 Temperatures
 Ventilation
 Lighting
 Sanitary Conveniences
 Washing Facilities
 Fencing of Dangerous Machinery
 First Aid Provisions
 Prohibition of Heavy Work
 Noise and Vibrations
 Lifts and Hoists
 Accidents on Registered Premises.

(b) Registrations and General Inspections

	Premises Newly Reg istered during the year	Regis- tered at Year End	Premises Inspected
Offices	1	53	33
Retail Shops	10	212	181
Wholesale Shops	-	2	-
Catering Establishments	1	15	17
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTALS	12	283	232

Total number of visits to registered premises - 413

(c) Accidents

Three accidents were notified, as required by the provisions of the Act and the cause of accident investigated.

12. SHOPS ACT, 1950

No action was taken during the year to see that the provisions of this Act, which deals with closing hours of shops and hours of working for young people, were observed. With few exceptions shop keepers keep well within the permitted opening hours.

13. PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961, PART I OF THE ACT.

(a) Inspections - for purposes of provision as to health.

PREMISES (1)	Number on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		Occu- piers Prose- cuted (5)
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	
(a) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	130	3	-
(c) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	45	131	3	-

(b) Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Nos. of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (6)
	Fnd (2)	Remedied (3)	To HM Insp. (4)	to HM Insp. (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	2	-	-	-

(c) Part VIII of the Act

No factories in the Urban District gave notice of employment of outworkers.

Three outworkers were reported in the Urban District employed by factories outside the Urban District and inspections were made of home conditions.

